



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

In addition to the inoculation of this guinea pig, Dr. Benson had inoculated other animals from the first guinea pig, and had, on my arrival, obtained the organism in pure culture.

Immediately upon my arrival cultures were made upon glucose broth, lactose broth, salt agar, and neutral agar.

Guinea pigs and white rats were inoculated, some subcutaneously and some cutaneously. Some of the animals, in addition, received antiplague serum. In 24 hours examination of the cultures showed the absence of involution forms upon salt agar; profuse and heavy growth upon salt agar and neutral agar; the formation of gas with acidity in glucose broth; a growth in lactose broth without change in reaction.

A guinea pig inoculated subcutaneously, and which had not received any antiplague serum, showed distinct evidence of illness within 18 hours after inoculation, and died in about 28 hours after inoculation. At necropsy the findings were in no way typical of plague.

The white rat inoculated by subcutaneous injection, and which had also received antiplague serum, died in about 36 hours after inoculation, some hours before the control animal, which had received no antiplague serum.

Based on the above findings, the opinion was arrived at that the organism isolated from the suspected rat was not the plague bacillus.

VIRULENT SMALLPOX.

For a number of years smallpox of a mild form has been widely prevalent throughout the United States. From time to time the virulent type of the disease has appeared in certain localities. During the past few weeks this virulent type of the disease has been present in the city of Los Angeles, Cal., and in the neighboring city of Pasadena. In Los Angeles from July 28 to August 17, 19 cases of smallpox were reported, with 7 deaths. In the neighboring city of Pasadena, during the latter part of July, there were 3 cases, with 2 deaths. Of the 7 deaths in Los Angeles, all occurred in persons who had never been vaccinated, with the exception of one case, which was in a person who had been vaccinated 30 years before the attack.

During the past few months virulent smallpox was also present in certain localities in Texas, the most pronounced outbreak being in Tarrant County.

LEPROSY.

The occurrence of two cases of leprosy in persons who had resided in Michigan for some years, noted on page 1437, brings again to general attention the need for some definite policy which will act uniformly throughout the country for the control and segregation of lepers. During the calendar year 1911 there were reported in the continental United States 41 cases of leprosy coming to official notice during the year. These 41 cases were distributed among 19 States.

At the beginning of the present year there was a total of 146 cases of leprosy known to be present in the country. These cases were under the supervision of the health authorities of 17 different States. Three States, namely, California, Louisiana, and Massachusetts, have established leprosaria, where lepers are segregated and cared for. In the other States cases are provided for in various ways and with varying degrees of segregation and control. The number of cases in many of these States is so small that it has been considered economically impracticable to make satisfactory provision for their control and care. It is a question, however, whether the sanitary welfare of the community and of future generations does not make it imperative that adequate provision be made for all cases. Quite a number of cases of leprosy have developed in persons born in the United States.

Leprosy is a disease which appears to require for its spread from the sick to the well a more or less prolonged or intimate contact. It is, however, an infectious disease, due to a specific microorganism, and each case represents a focus of infection from which other persons may become infected, if their association with the sick is sufficiently intimate or prolonged. There are but a comparatively few cases of leprosy now in the United States, but if this number is to be kept small and the burden of an ever-increasing number of lepers is not to be placed upon future generations, it is necessary that all foci of the infection be controlled and lepers segregated. This segregation will necessarily work some hardship upon the persons affected, but as the measure is for the welfare of the community at large, the segregation should be made as agreeable and devoid of inconvenience as it is practicable to make it.

Leprosy is sometimes compared with tuberculosis and the statement made that the latter disease is more contagious and more prevalent and the question is asked why take so much greater precautions with leprosy which is the less contagious of the two? If there were in the United States at the present time only a few hundred cases of tuberculosis, sanitary wisdom and the welfare of the Nation would warrant the careful and rigid segregation of all persons affected with the disease, and the community would do well to expend any reasonable amount of money that might be necessary to accomplish this segregation and to make the lives of those thus segregated not only free from hardship but in so far as possible, enjoyable in every way. This segregation would stamp out the disease and prevent its spread. The same result would be accomplished by the segregation of lepers.

POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS).

Poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) is at the present time epidemic in Buffalo, N. Y., and vicinity, and in Los Angeles, Cal. A greater number of cases than usual has also been reported in Cleveland, Ohio.

The first known outbreak of poliomyelitis in Buffalo was during the summer and autumn of 1910, during which time 24 cases were